

them: We want you to live together. We don't want one to burn the other one out. And you cannot promise them that if you do not thin those forests.

With that, I am finished, and I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum in the absence of a leader. He has asked for a quorum until he returns. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAMM. I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded so I may simply make a statement as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. STEVENS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded so that I may speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. STEVENS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue to call the roll.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINA NONPROLIFERATION ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we have talked a great deal about the need to find a way to consider the China trade bill and also to consider the problem of China nuclear weapons proliferation. Senator THOMPSON has done a lot of work in this area, as have others. He has a bill that he would like to have considered and has agreed for it to be considered freestanding, separate from the China PNTR legislation, and that he would not feel a need—if I could speak for him just momentarily—to offer it as an amendment to the China bill, if we can get it considered freestanding.

So we have worked through that. I have discussed this with a number of interested parties, including Senator DASCHLE, and other members on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, July 10, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the minority leader, that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 583, S. 2645, the China Nonproliferation Act. I further ask consent that the bill be limited to relevant amendments. I finally ask consent that not later than 12:30 on Tuesday, July 11, the Senate

proceed to vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate.

Before the Chair rules, I would like to announce that it is my intention, as I have reiterated to the Armed Services Committee, that I will give them the opportunity to consider and, hopefully, conclude the DOD authorization bill. In fact, I am going to try to do a unanimous consent request on that next. We will try to get that Department of Defense authorization bill done—a very important bill—before the August recess.

We are now working on a consent that was outlined last night by the chairman and ranking member. It is my hope that we could get an agreement on that time. If there is a problem with it, we will continue to work to find an agreement where we can remove the nongermane amendments, deal with the Defense amendments, and complete that very important legislation.

So that is my request that I propound at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object.

Mr. SHELBY. Reserving the right to object.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will have to object until Senator BAUCUS arrives. He is on his way. Hopefully, this matter can be resolved very quickly.

He has just walked in the Chamber. Senator BAUCUS is here. He can speak for himself. So until Senator BAUCUS has a chance to—

Mr. LOTT. Others might seek to be recognized on this on their reservation.

Mr. REID. I have my reservation.

Mr. DOMENICI. Reserving the right to object, might I ask the leader a question?

Mr. LOTT. Certainly.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask the majority leader, you said something about a freestanding nonproliferation bill?

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

Mr. DOMENICI. What is that?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in answer to the question of the Senator from New Mexico, this is legislation that has been developed by Senator THOMPSON. It is the China Nonproliferation Act. Perhaps under the Senator's reservation, he would like to yield to Senator THOMPSON so he could give a brief response to that question.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, if I might please respond to my colleague.

Mr. DOMENICI. Please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. THOMPSON. I say to Senator DOMENICI, this is a piece of legislation that is in response to the continuing array of reports and information that we have concerning the continued proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in which the Chinese are engaged.

As you know, we are in the process of having an extensive national missile defense system debate in this country. Much of the reason for that need is

what the rogue nations are doing. Much of what the rogue nations are being supplied with is coming from the Chinese Government and Chinese governmental entities.

What this bill does is provide for an annual assessment. It is China specific. It is an annual assessment as to their level of proliferation activities. If any entities are engaged in those activities, there are certain responses in which our country engages to cut off those entities with regard to dual-use trade, munitions trade, access to our capital market. There is an array of things the President has to choose from to respond to that.

Mr. DOMENICI. I say to the majority leader, I have no objection. I withdraw my reservation.

Mr. SHELBY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I have a reservation that maybe the majority leader can clarify, if he will yield for a question.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would be glad to yield under the Senator's reservation and respond to the question.

Mr. SHELBY. Does this only relate to bringing up the THOMPSON bill and nothing else?

Mr. LOTT. This unanimous consent request only deals with the bill S. 2645, the China Nonproliferation Act. No other issue, no other bill is included in it.

Mr. SHELBY. I have no objection.

Mr. BAUCUS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. I arrived on the floor a little late.

What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A unanimous consent request by the majority leader is pending.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my concern is that we are setting the July schedule, albeit part of the July schedule, but without inclusion of a date or time for PNTR. I am very concerned that as we start taking up matters in July—even though it is the THOMPSON amendment—who knows what might intervene. You have reconciliation; you have appropriations bills, and whatnot. Because we do not have a date certain on the request for PNTR, it could very easily slip into September or even a later date.

I know it is very much the intention of the majority leader to bring up the PNTR in July. He has said that many times. And I very much appreciate that. But as I have said personally to the majority leader, I am not so certain that, despite his best intentions, he can totally control whether or not PNTR actually does come up in July.

In addition, the merits of the bill that would otherwise be scheduled to come up after the July recess is very dangerous. I do not think Senators have really had the time to look at the

provisions of that bill, to think through the implications of that bill. It has unilateral sanctions, mandatory—not discretionary—sanctions against China. It is very overdrawn. American companies doing business in China could be sanctioned. It has extraterritorial provisions which are way beyond the ordinary rules of international law. I think it would cause a tremendous strain in the context of PNTR.

My concern is that we are setting the schedule for July, albeit just a part of July, that does not include probably the most important vote that this Senate is going to take up this Congress; that is, passage of PNTR. And until there is a date set for PNTR, I must respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we will continue to work with both sides of the aisle to see if this matter can be dealt with in an acceptable way, aside from it being offered as an amendment to the China PNTR bill. I think that would be potentially a large problem because if it were adopted, certainly then that legislation would have to go back to the House, and there is a lot of concern about that.

As far as a time to consider the major bill, the China PNTR, this is an important part of the process in a move in that direction. And until we get this resolved, then it is going to be very hard to focus on exactly what date we could get a vote on the bill.

I must also add that it is true we have a lot of important work to do in July. We have to deal with the very unfair death penalty. We have to deal with eliminating the marriage penalty tax. We have to pass the agriculture appropriations bill. We have to pass the Interior appropriations bill. We have to pass the Housing and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. We have to pass the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill. We have to pass the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill. We have a lot of work to do, and none of it is insignificant.

The people's business needs to be taken care of. This is just a part of that process. But I understand the Senator's objection. We will keep working to see if we can find a time and a way to do it.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now have a unanimous consent request that the only first-degree amendments remaining in order to the Department of Defense authorization bill, S. 2549, be limited to amendments that are relevant to the provisions of the bill, and on the finite list of amendments in order to the bill; that these first-degree amendments be subject to relevant second-degree amendments; provided further that the first-degree amendments must be filed at the desk by the close of business on Friday, June 30, 2000.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will just say, as I indicated last night, we want to work with the majority, with the leader, to accommodate his desire to bring this bill to closure. We are just about there. We are not quite there. I have been talking with one of my colleagues in regard to that particular request. We are not there yet. Unfortunately, I will object.

Mr. LOTT. Before the Senator objects, in the spirit of cooperation that we are working under, I would like to withdraw the request so we can keep working and see if we can get this agreed to today.

Mr. DASCHLE. That would be preferable.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request is withdrawn.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this is precisely what I and Senator LEVIN and Senator REID and others have been working on. On our side, as best I can assess, there is one remaining understandable discussion that must take place between Chairman ROTH of the Finance Committee and the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD. I believe other indications on our side have been fulfilled. I have worked through the morning. I believe they are fulfilled. So if that one remaining issue can hopefully be resolved, we might be able to readdress this today.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it looks as if we are going to be here for quite some time. I believe we will have an opportunity later on in the day to try again. We will certainly do our very best to get this agreed to. It is an important issue. We will do everything we can to come up with a fair agreement.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, until some understanding is agreed to on the amendment to which Mr. WARNER has alluded, I will object.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could turn to the military construction appropriations conference report, that is a very good bill that passed way back in May, I think it was May 18. This important military construction conference report passed the Senate under the leadership of Senator CONRAD BURNS, but from the very beginning, it was a bill that did have some emergency provisions attached to it. We did have the funds for the costs, the money that has been already spent for the defense for Kosovo, and some additional funds for costs associated with that.

Over a period now of almost 6 weeks, there has been a process underway between the House and the Senate on both sides of the aisle to get an agreement on this conference report that in-

cluded a title II that had the emergency funds for the Kosovo situation, for the Colombia drug war, and also for emergencies associated with Hurricane Floyd, the fires, and other issues.

During the process of the conference, other issues were added. Some issues that were in were taken out. That is the way a conference works. I must confess that I didn't get a look at the final product myself until this morning. I think we actually had access to it last night. We did get access to it. Senators had an opportunity to review that. If points of order need to be made, they can be made. But this is for military construction and for emergencies. We need to get this done. It is already late. There are a lot of people, there are a lot of different reasons for how that happened, but here we are. As majority leader, I have a responsibility to try to bring it to a conclusion and take whatever time that requires.

I will shortly ask unanimous consent that the military construction appropriations conference report come up. I need to inform all Members that if the agreement is not agreed to or a similar version to this that can—if we cannot come up with something that could be entered into by the full Senate, then it would be my intention to call up the conference report and Senators MCCAIN and GRAMM will ask, as I understand it, that it be read. If that is done, it would take some 6 hours, I am told by the staff, to read the conference report. I still hope we can avoid that. If there are problems with the conference report, let's talk about it. If points of order are going to be made, let's do them. We will have time to understand exactly what is in the bill.

I am sure we will hear from Senator STEVENS and Senator BYRD and others who are familiar with the details. That is what it is all about. I realize it is Friday afternoon, but Members have been told for weeks that we would be in session on this Friday and would be having votes.

This is an important vote. All we can do is try to come up with a way that we can have a good debate, but if there is objection to proceeding and insistence that it be read, then we will have to do that. After that there could be a series of votes on points of order and hopefully on final passage.

I want to outline the situation as it now stands. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the conference report and it be considered as having been read. I further ask unanimous consent that following 10 minutes for debate between the two managers, and the chairman and ranking member, Senator GRAMM be recognized to raise a point of order. I further ask unanimous consent Senators STEVENS and BYRD be immediately recognized to make a motion to waive and, following 10 minutes equally divided on the motion to waive, the Senate proceed to a vote on that motion with or without any intervening action or debate. By the way, if we need more time